

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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*Published by the Commission on Public Relations
of the National Christian Council of Japan*

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CABLE CODE : JAPACONCIL, ADDRESS : CHRISTIAN CENTER, 2, 4 - CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN

Subscription Rates : Japan ¥700; Foreign (Sea mail) \$2.00; (Air mail) \$3.50.

No. 87

August 15, 1956

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CHRISTIAN ENDEAVORERS MEET

One hundred and four delegates representing Australia, Canada, Japan, Hong Kong, Formosa, Korea and the USA attended the Pacific Area Conference of World Christian Endeavor at the Hoshino Hot Spring in Kutsukake on the outskirts of Karuizawa, July 30 to August 2. Prominent among the nineteen foreign visitors were Dr. and Mrs. Daniel A. Poling, president of World Christian Endeavor Union, Mr. Harold E. Westerhoff of Columbus, Ohio, the treasurer, Dr. Earle W. Gates of Derby, N.Y., president of International Christian Endeavor Union, and Rev. Stanley Potter of Australia. Program speakers were Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa, who discussed "General Trends in the Christian movement in Japan;" Mr. Soichi Saito, who spoke on "Recent Thought Trends in Japan," and Professor Toru Matsumoto of Meiji Gakuin University who presented a challenging statement of "Problems confronting Japanese Students". The conference voted to urge World Christian Endeavor Union to appoint full time secretaries for the Pacific Area countries and Japan. The officers of the Japan Christian Endeavor Union continue. The Reverend Yoshimune Abe is President, the Reverend Akira Ebisawa, General Secretary, The Reverend Morito Inagaki, executive secretary and Mr. Kojiro Hata, chairman of the Board of Directors.

THE CHURCH OF JAPAN
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FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES

The Annual Conference of the Fellowship of Christian Missionaries which met at Lake Nojiri, July 30 to August 1, elected the following new officers: President, Olaf Hansen (Evangelical Lutheran), Vice President, Raymond Hammer (Episcopal), Secretary, B.L. Hinchman (Baptist), Treasurer, Paul Oltman (Presbyterian) and Necrologist Dr. A.J. Stirewalt (United Lutheran). In response to overtures from the National Christian Council, it was voted that editorial responsibility for the Japan Christian Year Book should be transferred to that organization. But the conference decided to retain responsibility for editing the Japan Christian Quarterly although continued use of that name will be studied by the incoming editorial board. It was also decided to publish a Missionary Directory jointly with the Evangelical Missionary Association. The Right Reverend Michael Yashiro, presiding Bishop of the Anglican Church, in his address urged that the Ecumenical Movement in Japan give more attention to the problem of Christian unity.

MRS KUBUSHIRO RETURNS

Mrs. Ochimi Kubushiro, Vice President of the WCTU, recently returned from an extended trip to Europe where she attended a World WCTU Conference and inspected social problems in Europe and America. Concerning the Anti-Prostitution Law which passed the Diet during her absence she urges that four points be stressed: (1) A united effort to correct the defects in the Law; (2) Free medical treatment for V.D. patients; (3) Consultation clinics for former prostitutes and; (4) Sex education in high schools and colleges. She was greatly impressed by the picture of Christ in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Los Angeles where an explanation of the picture is given by a recorded voice which can be heard by pressing a button!

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY FACULTY NEWS

International Christian University will have a number of additions to its faculty this fall, some of whom have had previous experience in Japan.

Mr. George Gibbs, who will be Administrative Assistant to Mr. Harold Hackett, Vice President for Finances, has his M.A. degrees from the University of Virginia in Accounting. Mrs. Gibbs is the daughter of the Yewing Scotts in Syracuse whose interest in ICU resulted in raising funds for the Japanese faculty homes. While Mr. Gibbs served with the Armed Forces here, Mrs. Gibbs taught at Aoyama Gakuin and coached drama at Tsuda College.

Dr. Ray E. Baber, Ph.D., was a Fullbright Professor here in 1954-55, after which he returned to Pomona College, Claremont, California. He will become Director of the Social Research Institute and professor of sociology.

Dr. Derek Stanley Brewer, Ph.D., of the University of Birmingham, will be associate professor of English Literature.

Yale Divinity
New Haven,

Dr. Alan Gleason, Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, comes from the University of Rochester as associate professor of Economics.

Dr. Jonathan E. Kiddery, Ph.D., comes from Washington University, St. Louis to be associate professor of History and Appreciation of Art.

Dr. Georgia Harkness, Ph.D. of the Pacific School of Religion is to be professor of Christianity.

Elizabeth Babbott, Ph.D. who has just completed her graduate work at Radcliffe College and Harvard University, will serve as instructor in Biology.

SUMMER CONFERENCES AT ICU

During the summer month the university is being host to the following conferences: International Student Association (July 16-19); Seminar on Audio Visual Methods in Education (July 23-28); Seminar on Radio and Television in Education (July 30-Aug.4); American Friends Service Committee - International Student Seminar (Aug.8-22); The 5th Summer Seminar for Teachers of English; Recreation Workshop (Aug. 26-28); Faculty Retreat (Aug.29-31); Friend's School Teachers' Retreat (Aug.30-31).

The Student Christian Fellowship will hold two retreats at Tomioka City, Gumma Prefecture August 26-29 and August 29-Sept.1.

MODERATOR MUTO COMMENTS

Dr. Takeshi Muto, Moderator of the Church of Christ in Japan, who recently visited the United States reports that American church people are very much interested in plans for commemorating the Protestant Centennial. He believes that Christian leaders are concerned over the evangelism program and the Christian schools which have changed so greatly since their founding days. "Christianity in Japan" they believe, "is facing a period in which both its program of evangelism and education must be reexamined."

NCC TEACHERS TRAINING CONFERENCE AT KARUIZAWA

One hundred and twenty teachers registered for the Christian teachers Training Conference at Karuizawa July 23-26 sponsored by the Church School Department of the National Christian Council. Dr. Hidenobu Kuwata, president of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary, and Dr. Enkichiro Kan of Saint Paul's University, who were the principal lecturers, discussed "Education and Theology", "Life and Faith", and "Culture and Christian Thought". Group discussion centered on the curriculum and other practical problem of the various age groups.

WASEDA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ENTERTAIN CHILDREN

Waseda Service Association on August 2 and 3 was host to forty children of the Juvenile Protective Institution in Nagao Village, Gumma Prefecture. The excursion for the children was the result of a work camp last year when Christian young men of this group built a chapel for the children of the institution.

KARUIZAWA PASTORS' CONFERENCE

About one hundred persons attended the New Life League Pastors Conference in Karuizawa July 24-27 at which Dr. John R. Rice, American author and evangelist was the principal speaker. In his addresses he challenged the pastors to a greater evangelistic effort not only for Japan but for the countries which were invaded during the last war. "With the same spirit of invasion which carried her armies to Korea down to Singapore, and almost to Australia's door", he said, "now Japan must obey Christ's last orders, 'Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel'." There are reported to have been 350 applications, but because of the limited space at the Karuizawa Bible Institute where the conference was held, only one hundred were able to attend.

OKINAWA LAND PROBLEM

The General Affairs Department of the National Christian Council and the International Relations Committee and Social Problems Committee jointly sponsored a meeting on August 9 to discuss the human aspects of the Okinawa Land Problem. Prominent leaders of the Liberal Democratic Party and the Social Democratic Party were invited to attend. At the request of Okinawa pastors, the subject is also being considered by the International Problems Committee of the United Church.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONFERENCES

About one hundred delegates representing twenty-four schools affiliated with the Education Association of Christian Schools attended a religious education conference on August 28 at Tozanso, Gotemba, at the foot of Mount Fuji. Special emphasis was laid upon developing the faith of teachers and greater attention to Bible study courses. This was followed by a Summer School at which some two hundred teachers from fifty-six schools were registered. Student guidance, church school relations, and the mission of Christian schools were the principal subjects of discussion. The offering of ¥10,000 was for the Preparatory Committee of the World Sunday School Convention.

PREPARATIONS FOR WORLD SS CONVENTION

In preparation for the World Sunday School Convention in 1958, "Obstacles to Christian Education" was the subject for study at a conference recently held at the Hoshino Hotspring under the auspices of the third section of the Institute on Mission of the United Church. Discussion centered on elements in the Japanese mentality and social structure which make Christian penetration difficult.

EMAJ ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference of the Evangelical Missionary Association of Japan is in session in Karuizawa as the issue goes to the press. Dr. John R. R. Rice, an American evangelist, Dr. Larry Love, Presbyterian Pastor from Florida, and the Reverend Vernon Mortenson, Assistant General Director of the Evangelical Alliance Mission of Chicago, will deliver the principal addresses. Five hundred missionaries from all over Japan are expected to attend. The EMAJ reports a total membership of 1,507 missionaries.

A service commemorating the completion of the Braille Edition of the Colloquial Bible was held at the Ginza Church on August 3. Among those present were about one hundred blind persons who had been holding a conference at Koganei on the outskirts of Tokyo. The Old and New Testaments were read in Braille by blind ministers.

The Pocket New Testament League, which was established in Japan in 1949, closed its Japan office on July 31.

The annual Deeper Life Conference was held at Karuizawa August 1-6.

Five persons have been baptized by the Reverend Jiro Fukui, whose move to the Amami Islands was recently reported.

The chairman of the Rural Evangelism Committee of the United Church of Christ, The Reverend Teiro Nagao, and a member of the committee, Mr. Toshi Kimata, departed from Haneda Airport on August 8 for South East Asia, where they will observe Christian rural work. Enroute they will visit Okinawa and the Philippines.

